

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A gear drive housing having at least one continuously variable bearing float and preload adjustment system with an integral seal carrier for a bearing assembly on a drive shaft that protrudes from the housing gear drive that comprises:

a threaded housing bore in the a housing for the gear drive;

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a threaded adjustment ring with ring threads that mate the threads in the housing bore and a thrust surface that constrains a bearing assembly for a drive shaft that protrudes from the housing in fixed axial alignment through the adjustment ring to provide adjustable float and preload of the bearing assembly; and

at least one shaft seal mating with the drive shaft mounted within the adjustment ring.

Add Claims 2 through 6 as follows:

2. (New) The gear drive of Claim 1 wherein the threaded adjustment ring is loosened within the housing bore to increase float of the drive shaft bearing.

3. (New) The gear drive of Claim 1 wherein the threaded adjustment ring is tightened within the housing bore to increase preload of the drive shaft bearing.

4. (New) A bearing assembly float and preload adjustment system with an integral seal carrier for a drive shaft that protrudes from a gear drive housing in fixed axial alignment, comprising:

a threaded housing bore in the a housing for the gear drive:

a threaded adjustment ring with ring threads that mate the threads in the housing bore and a thrust surface that constrains a bearing assembly for the drive shaft to provide a continuously variable float and preload for the drive shaft bearing assembly; and

at least one shaft seal mating with the drive shaft mounted within the adjustment ring.

Alt Cont

- 5. (New) The bearing assembly of Claim 4 wherein the threaded adjustment ring is loosened within the housing bore to increase float of the drive shaft bearing.
- 6. (New) The bearing assembly of Claim 4 wherein the threaded adjustment ring is tightened within the housing bore to increase preload of the drive shaft bearing.
